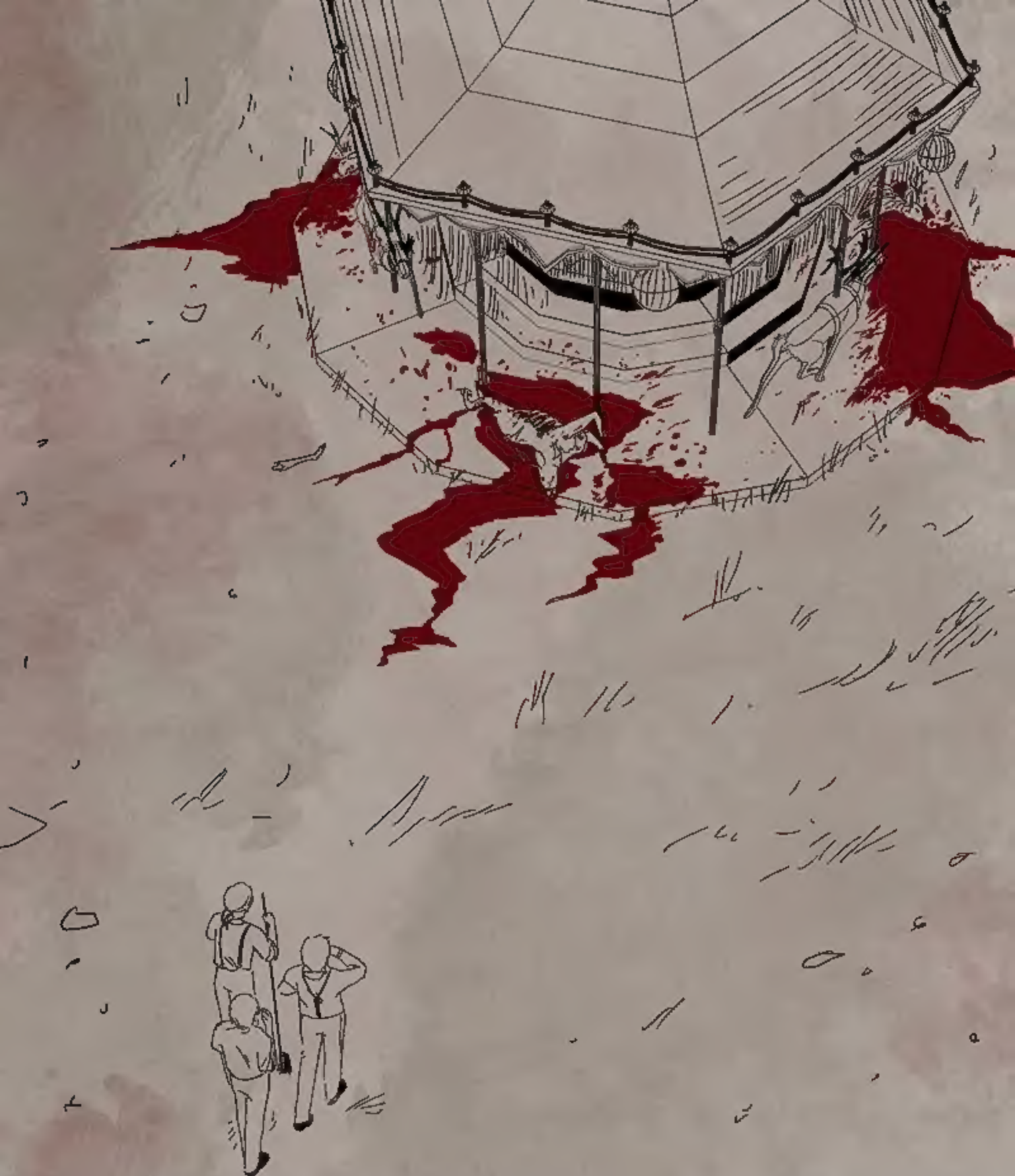
LONG AGO, WE DID SOMETHING...

...FOOLISH.

WE ANGERED THE SPIRIT OF THE FOREST.

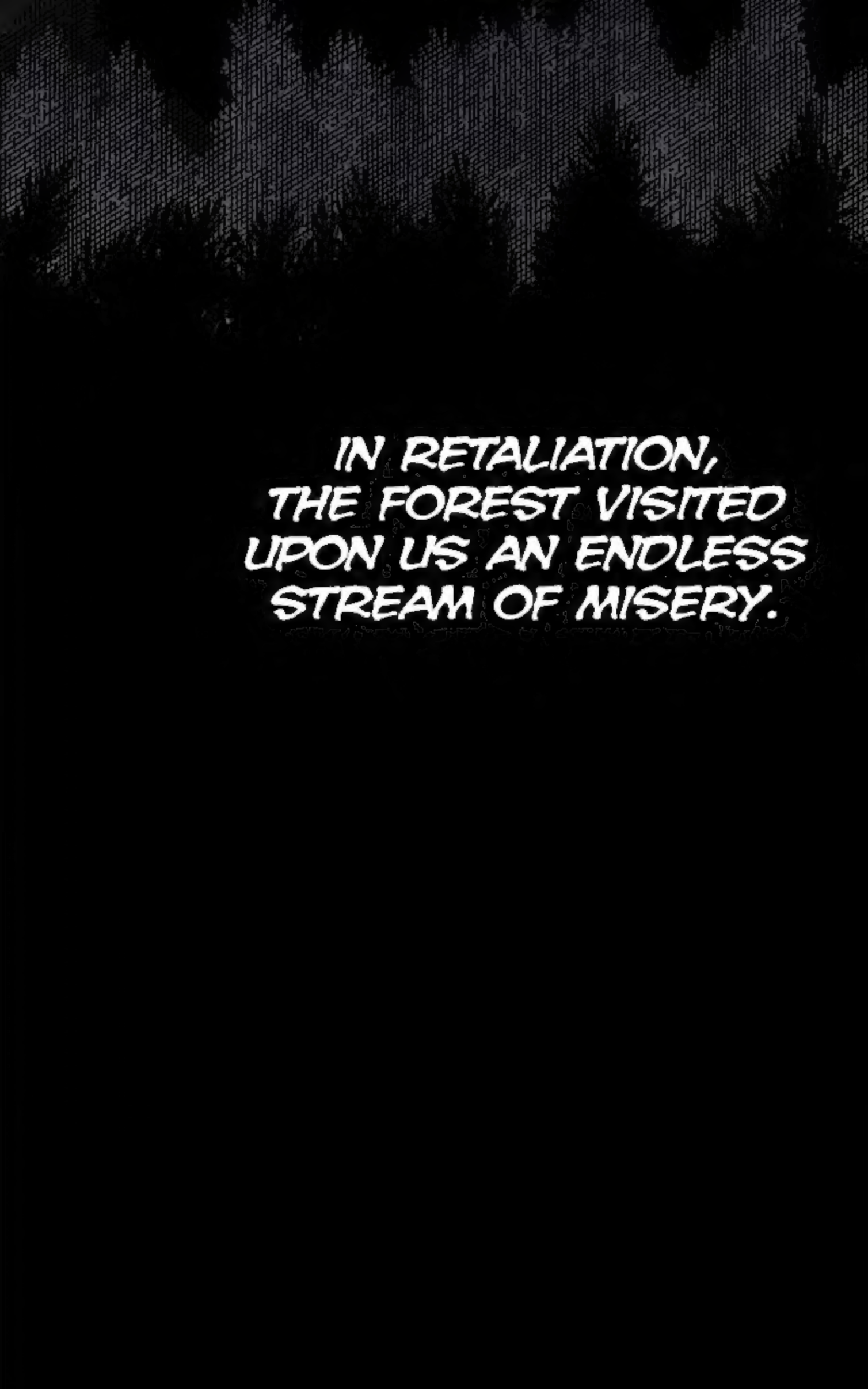
AND WE WERE PUNISHED FOR IT.

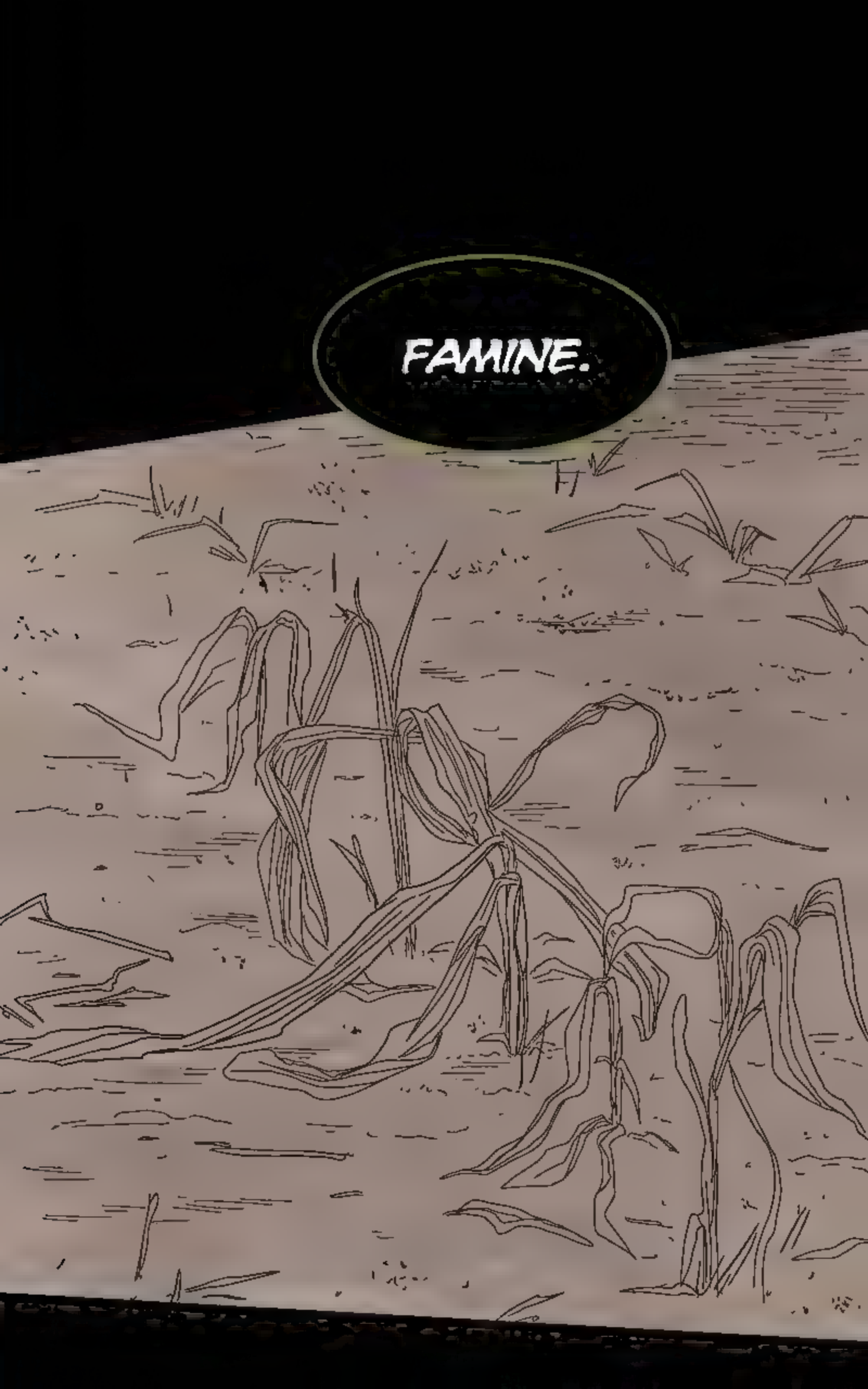
WE CREATED THE FIRST CAROUSEL...



...AND LEFT
LIVING CREATURES
TO DIE ON IT.

FOR OUR
AMUSEMENT.


IN RETALIATION,
THE FOREST VISITED
UPON US AN ENDLESS
STREAM OF MISERY.


FAMINE.

DROUGHT.
IT WOULD NOT

IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES.
OUR OFFERINGS AND OUR

PRAYERS.

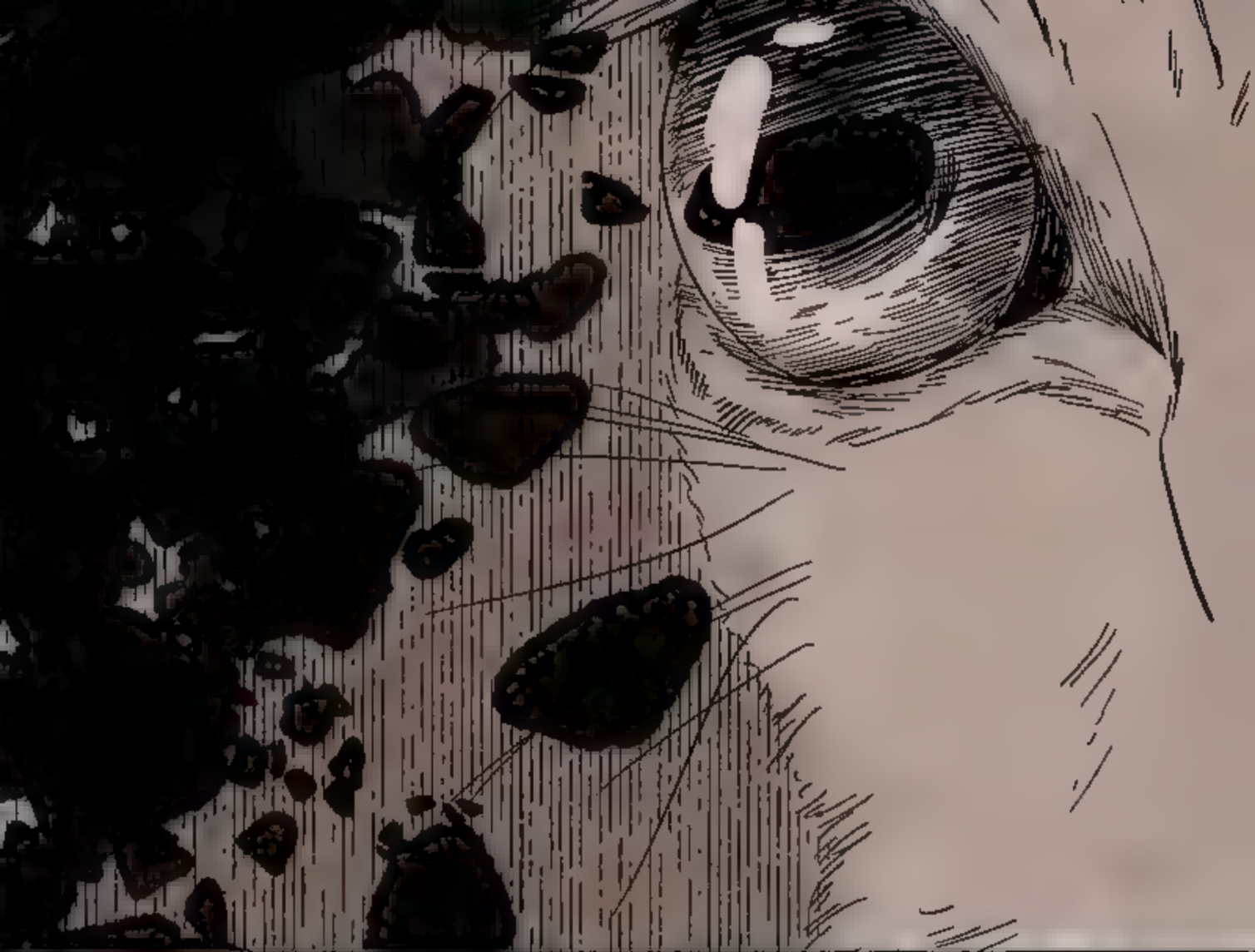
IT COULD NOT BE SATISFIED BY ANYTHING.

A FURIOUS GOD OF OLD.

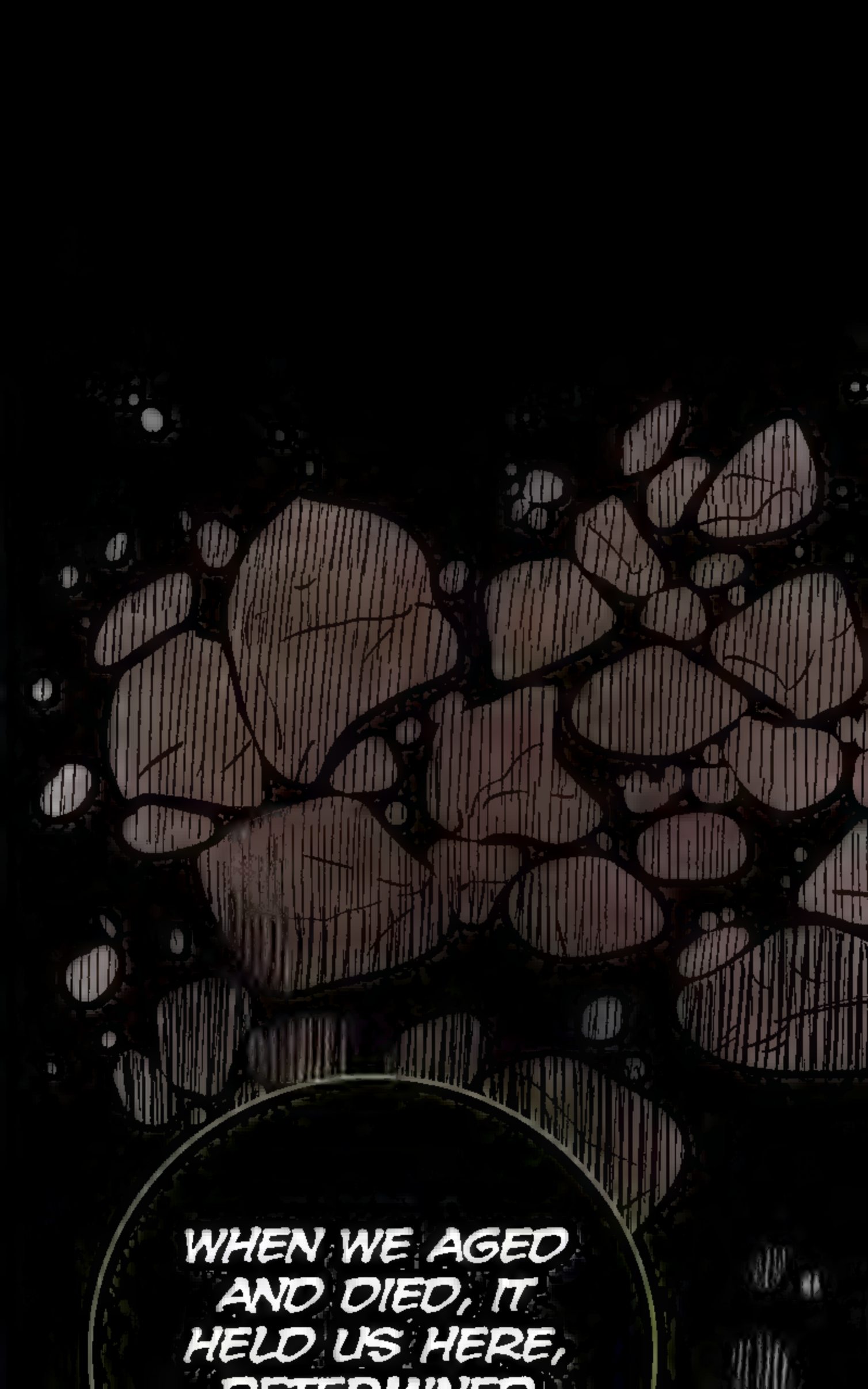
WE BEGGED A

SIN-EATER TO HELP, IN OUR DESPERATION.
HE REFUSED.

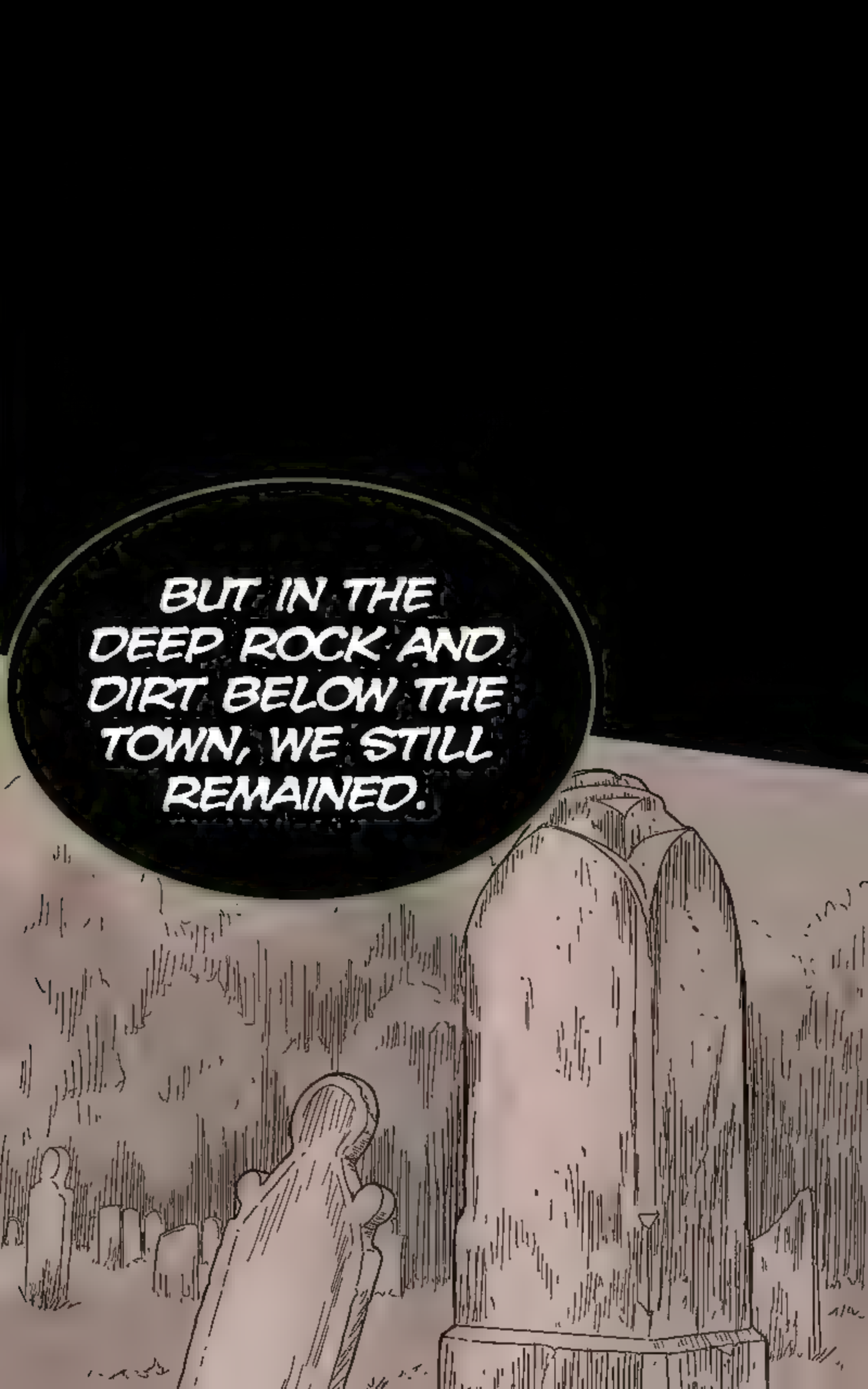
AND THE FOREST DID NOT ACCEPT OUR OFFERING OF HIS LIFE, EITHER.



EVEN IN DEATH, IT PURSUED US.


WHEN WE AGED AND DIED, IT HELD US HERE,

DETERMINED
NEVER TO LET
US GO.
OUR BODIES
WERE GONE.


BUT IN THE DEEP ROCK AND DIRT BELOW THE TOWN, WE STILL REMAINED.

TRAPPED.

IN THE POROUS ROCK AND LIME OF THE EARTH, WE SLOWLY DRIPPED AND COLLECTED.

OUR MEMORIES.
OUR ANGER. OUR GREAT SADNESS.

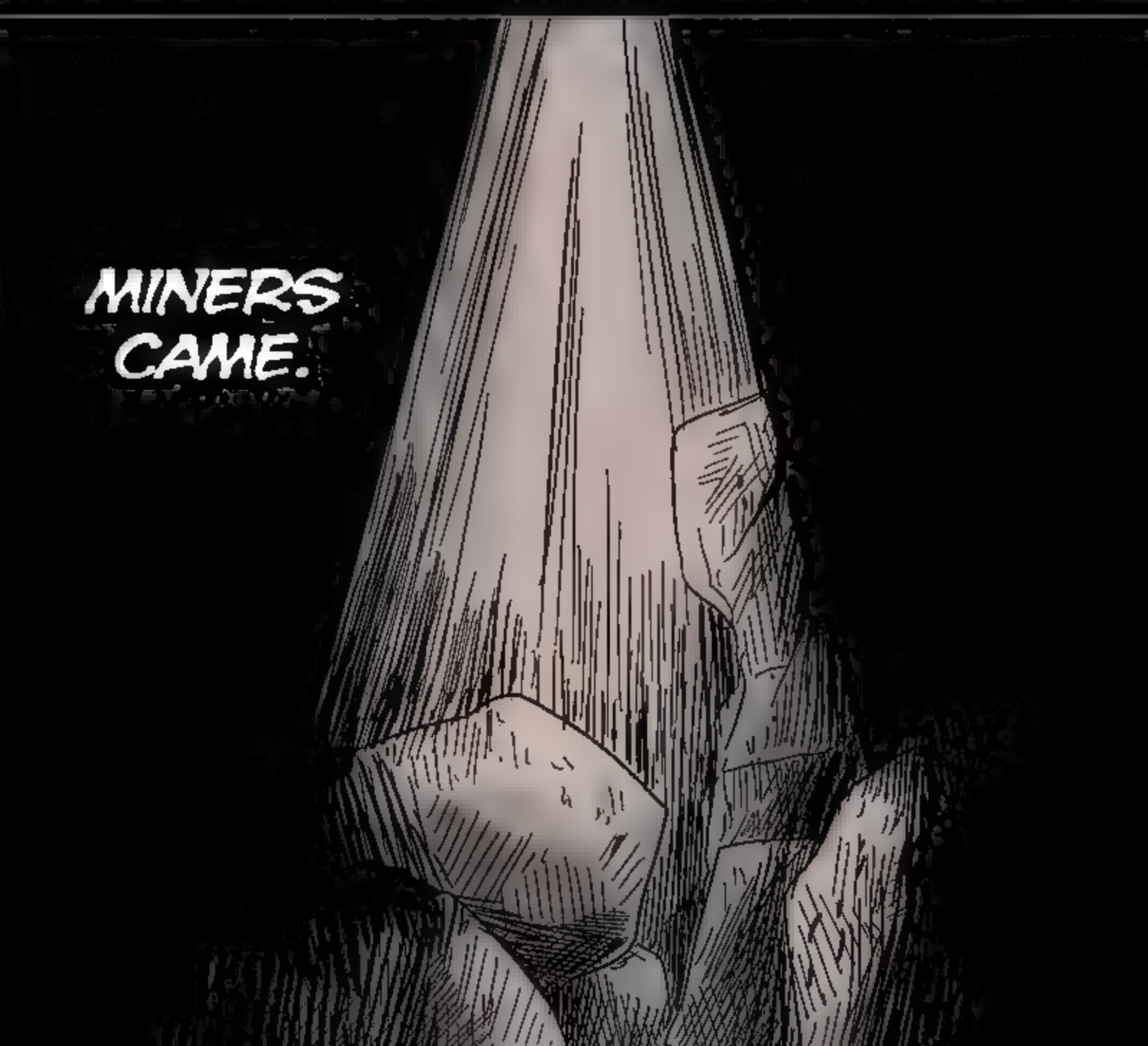
UNABLE TO MOVE, TO SPEAK, AS WE BUILT UP INTO A MASS OF THOUGHTS.

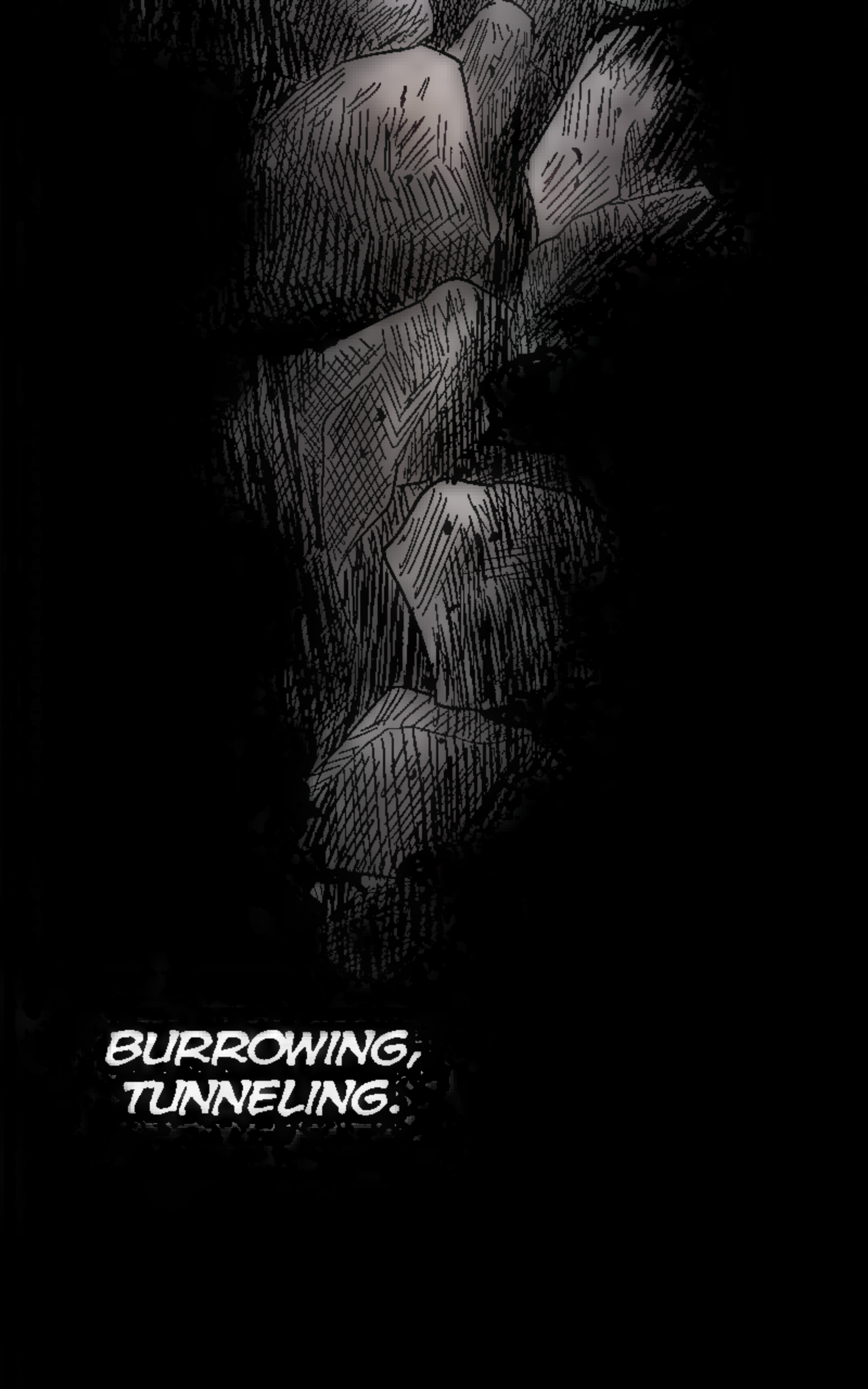
ALL FORCED TOGETHER BY OUR WICKED WAYS.

TANGLED, LIKE A NEST OF RATS.

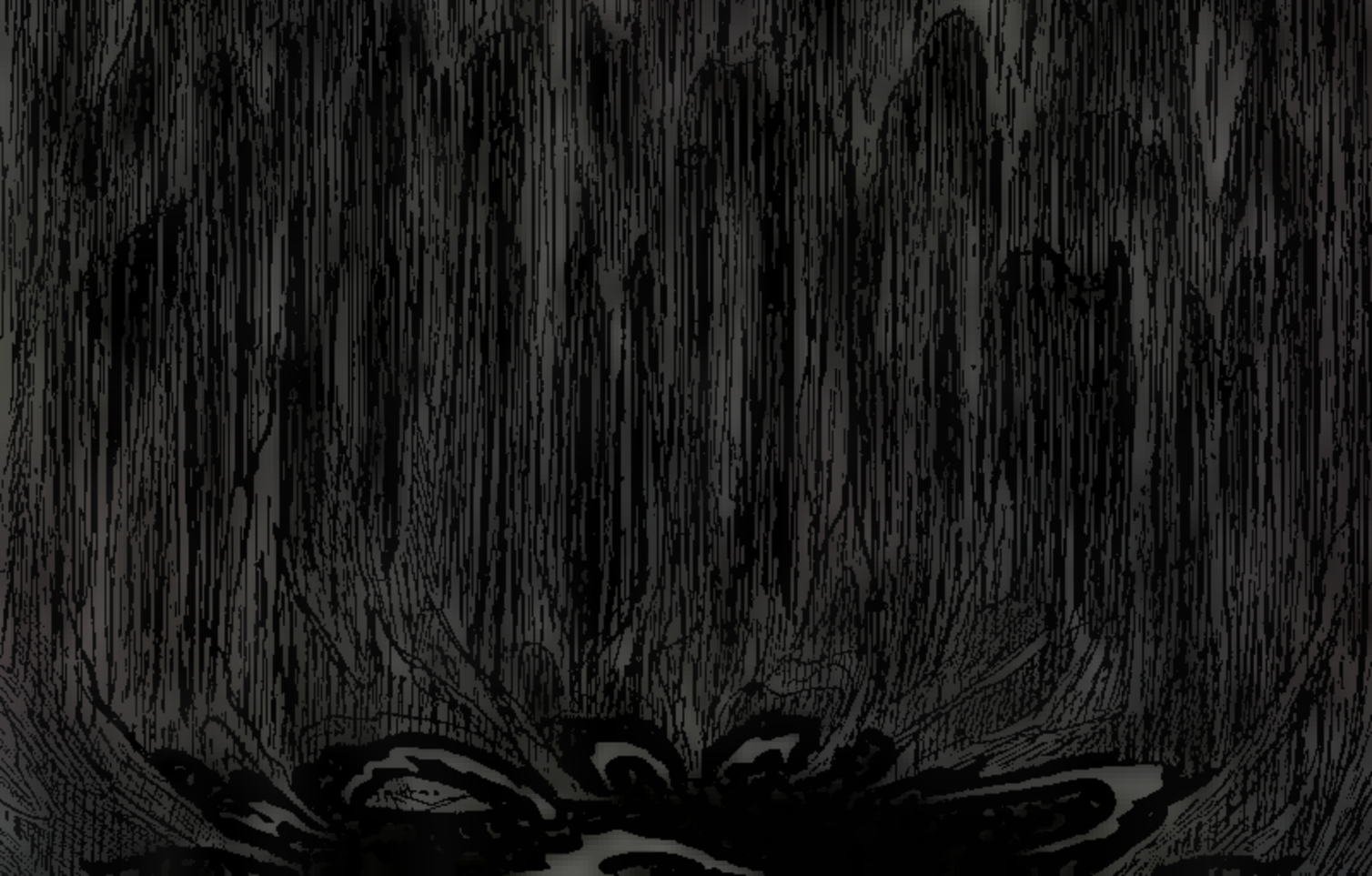
POOLING,
LIKE A LAKE
OF SIN.

AGES PASSED.




BURROWING,
TUNNELING.

UNEARTHING US, THEY FREED US FROM THE GRIP OF THE ROCK, THEN FLED.



IN DARKNESS,
WE SAT.

AND
THOUGHT.

YEARS DRAGGED ON.

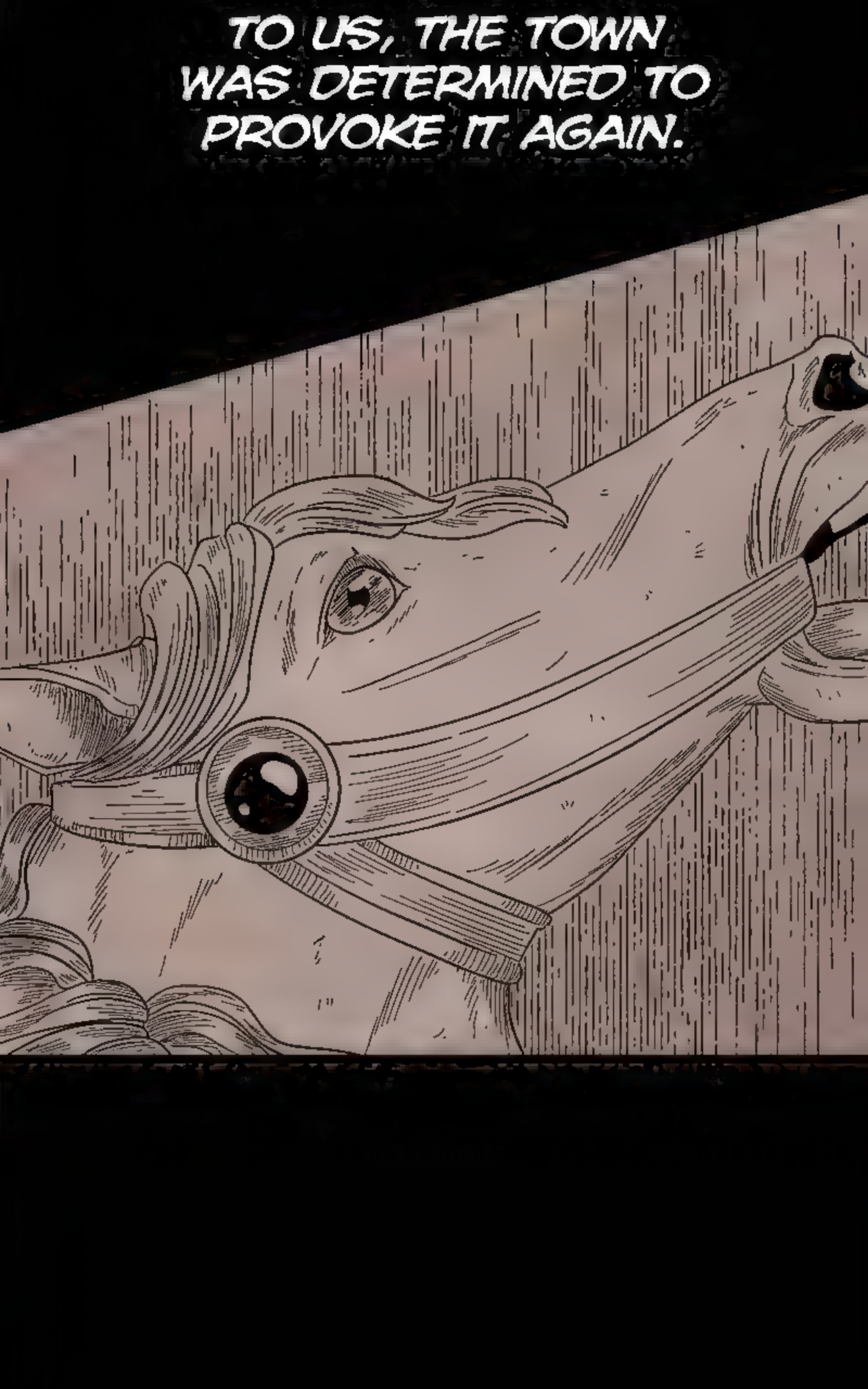
THE TOWN HAD FORGOTTEN ITS HISTORY.

TO OUR SHOCK AND ANGER...
IT BUILT A NEW CAROUSEL.

THE VERY THING WE'D TRIED SO HARD TO ERASE FROM OUR MINDS.

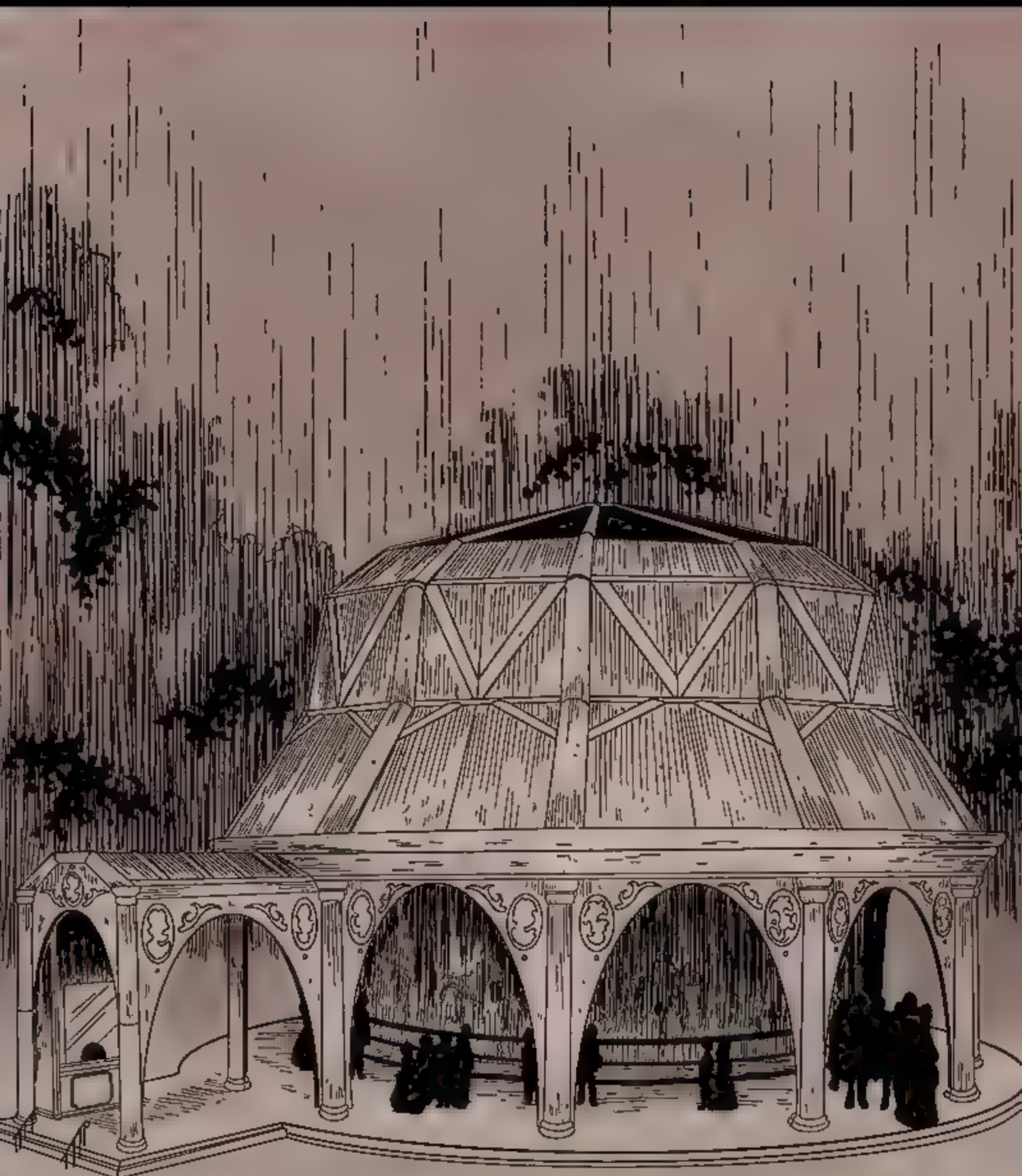
THE VERY THING THAT KEPT THE OLD FOREST ANGRY WITH US.

THEY BUILT ANOTHER.
AFTER ALL THE FOREST HAD DONE


TO US, THE TOWN WAS DETERMINED TO PROVOKE IT AGAIN.

WE WOULD NOT
LET THAT HAPPEN.

RUMMMBLE...



KRRRCK

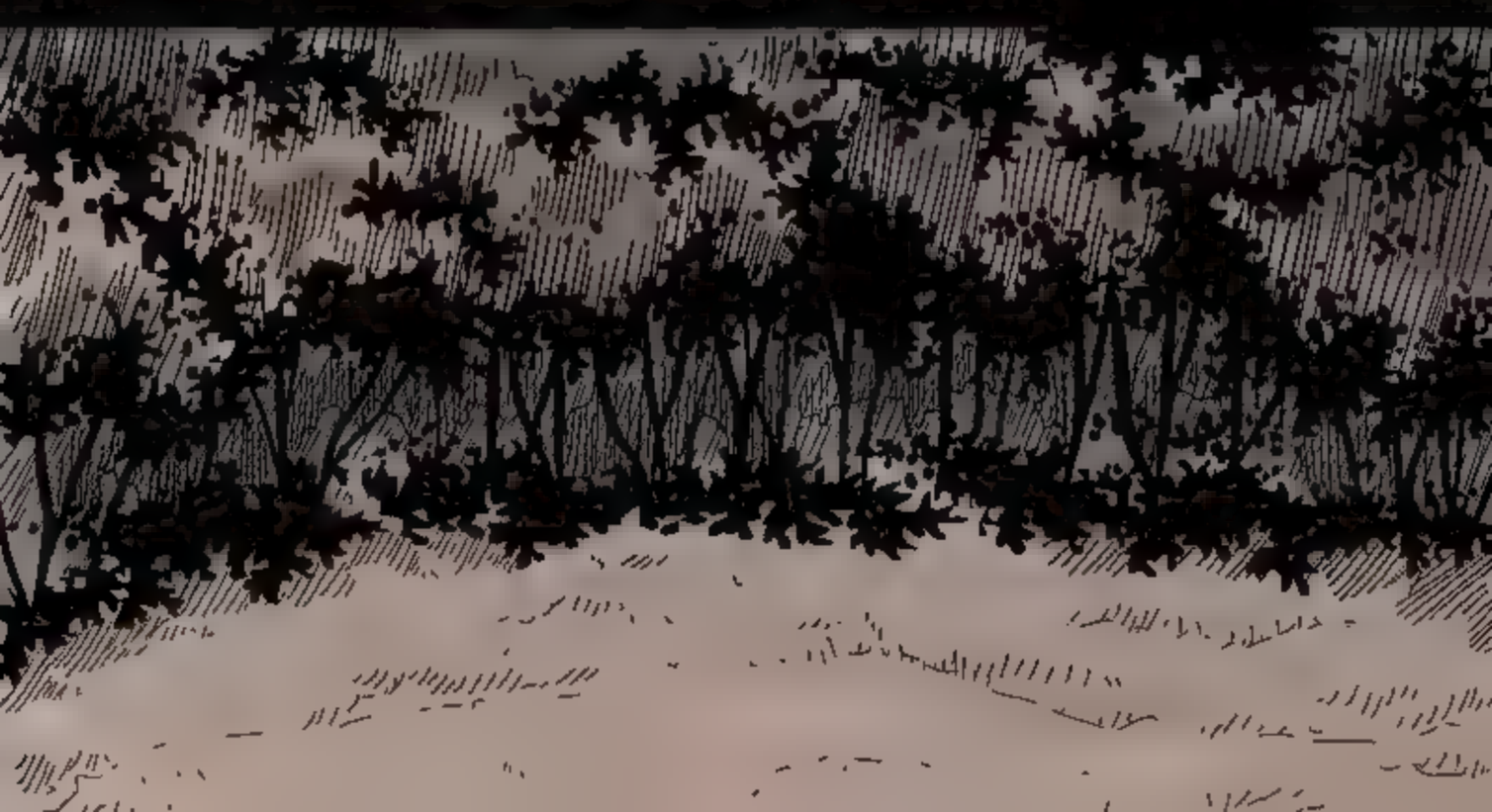
KRRASSHH

WE OPENED

...AND SWALLOWED THE ABOMINATIONS.

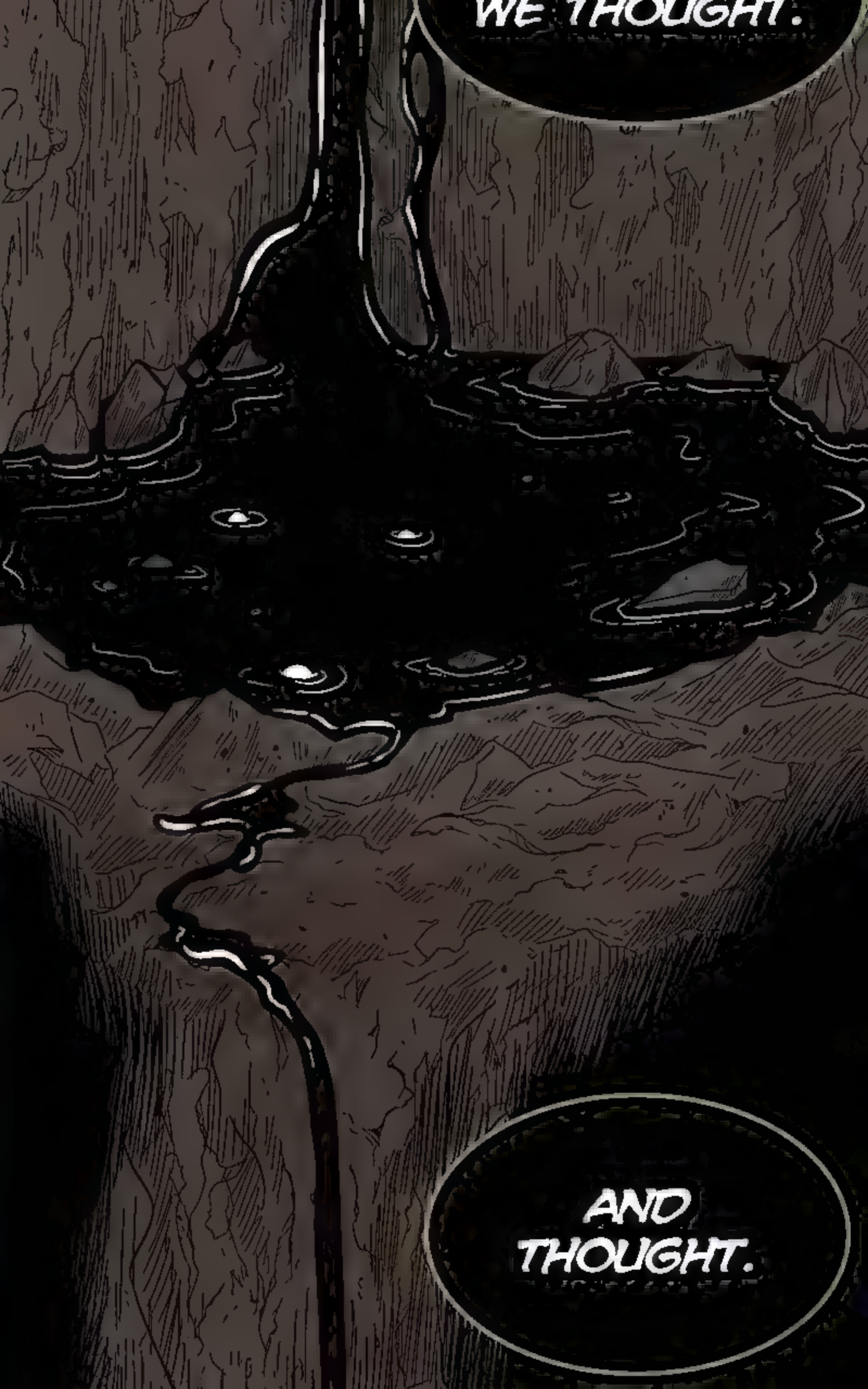
IN THE FIELDS, IN THE TOWN...OPENING HOLES UP TO TAKE

THEM ALL.



EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD.

THEY JOINED US DOWN HERE.


WE THOUGHT.
AND
THOUGHT.

AND
THOUGHT.

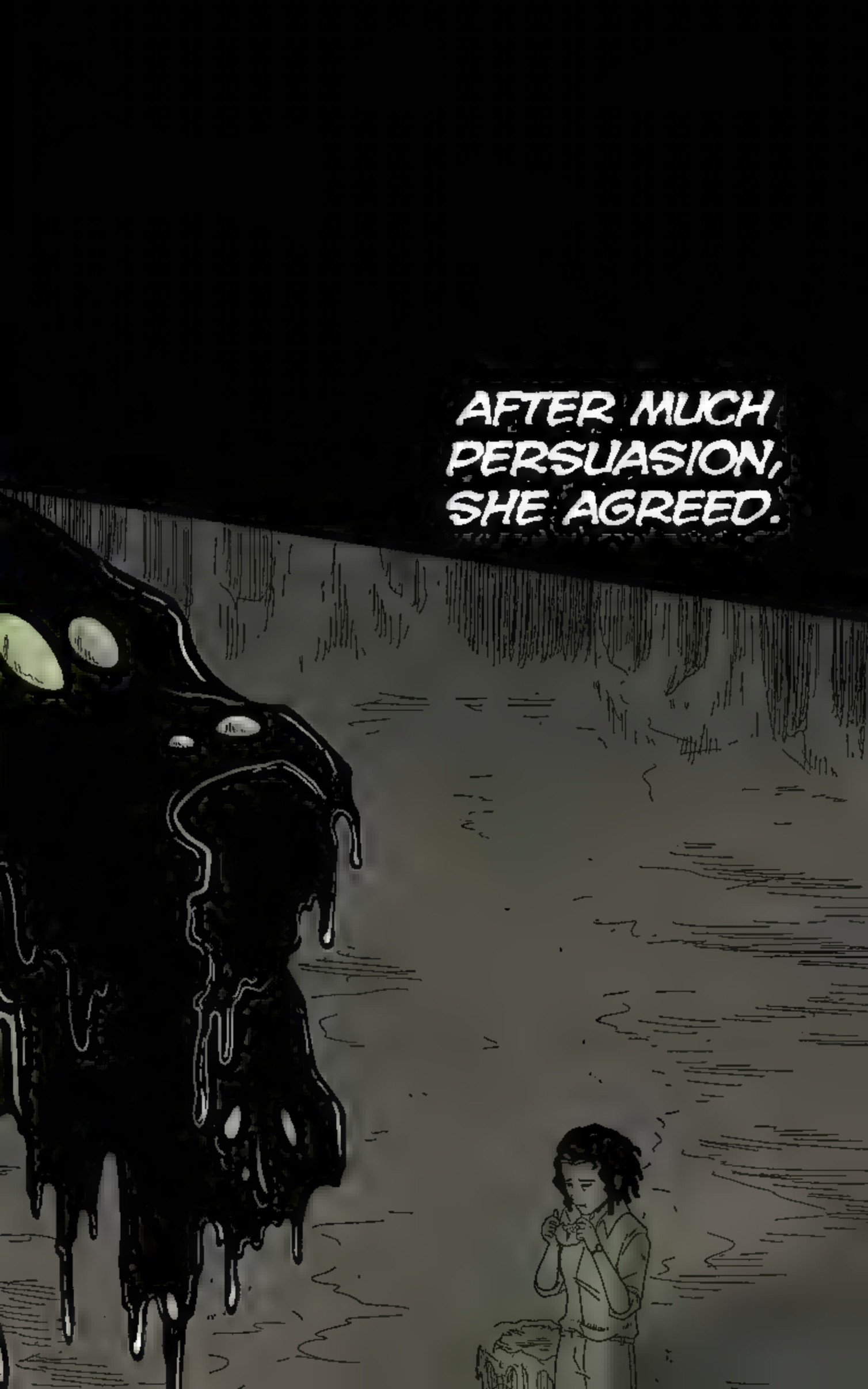
UNTIL IT
CAME TO

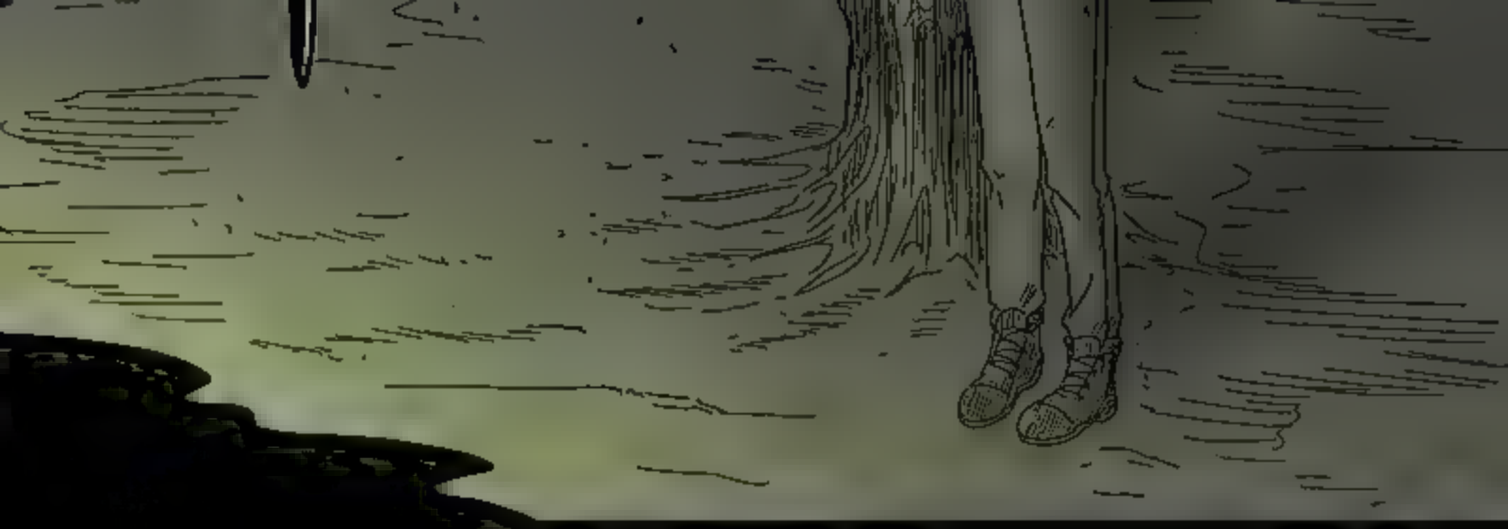
THE SIN-EATER HAD FLED FROM US. HE COULD HAVE SAVED US ALL THOSE YEARS

AGO. BUT HE REFUSED.

WE NEEDED A NEW SIN-EATER.

ONE WHO WOULD AGREE TO HELP.
THE ONE YOU CALL NOVA WAS OUR CHOICE.


AFTER MUCH PERSUASION, SHE AGREED.



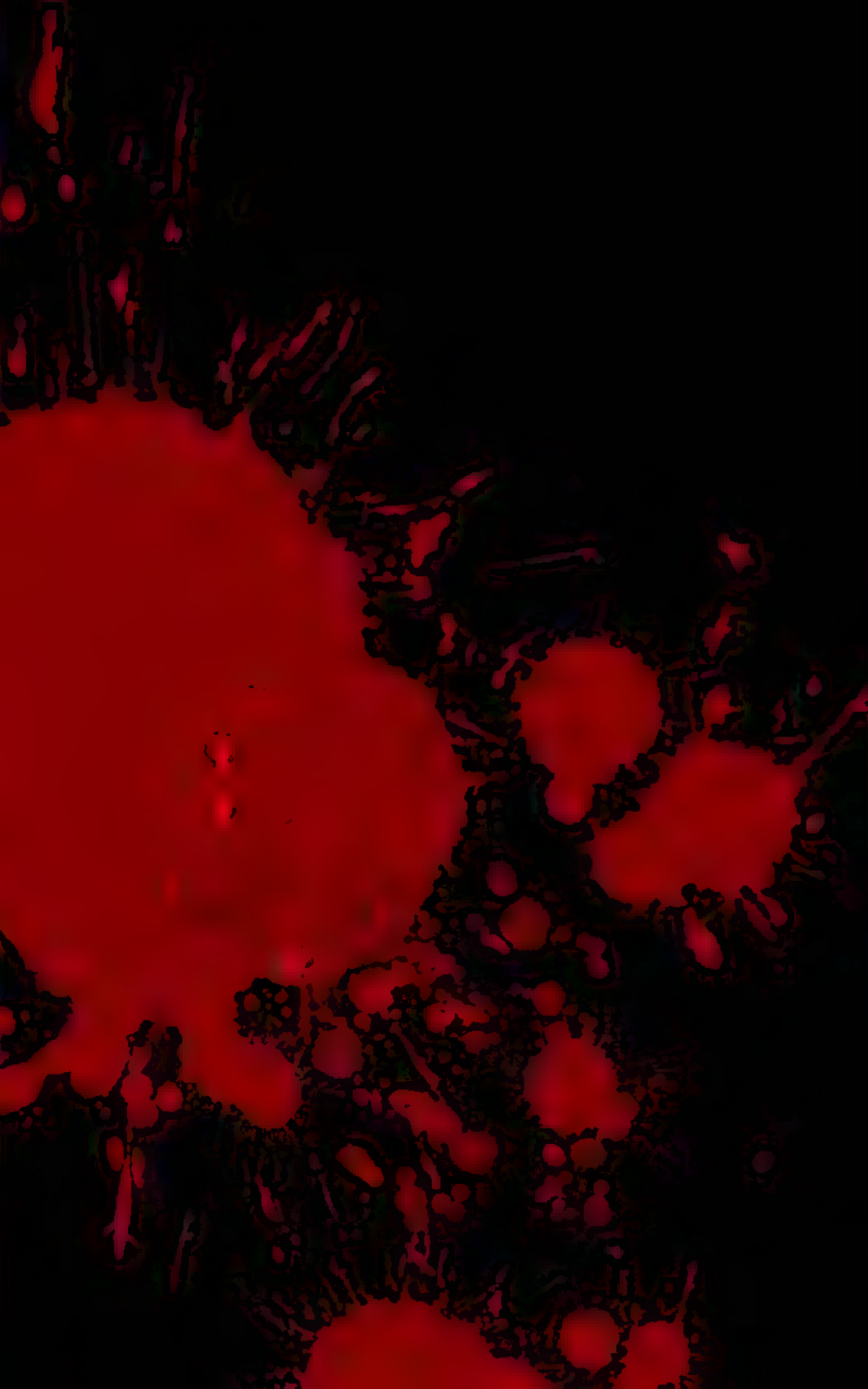
FINALLY, WE COULD REST. SHE WILLINGLY ATE OF THE SIN-EATER'S BREAD.

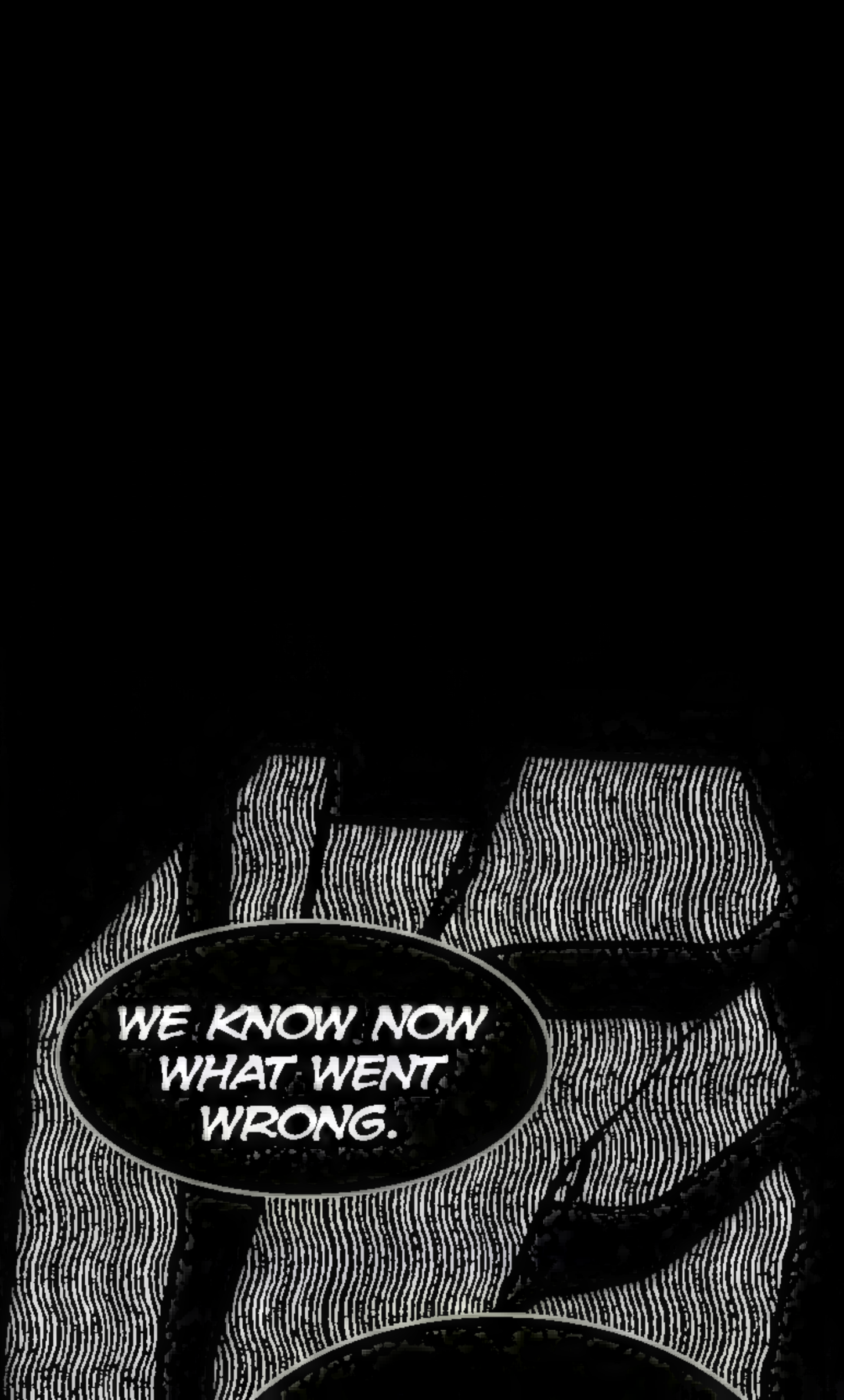
BUT NOTHING
HAPPENED.

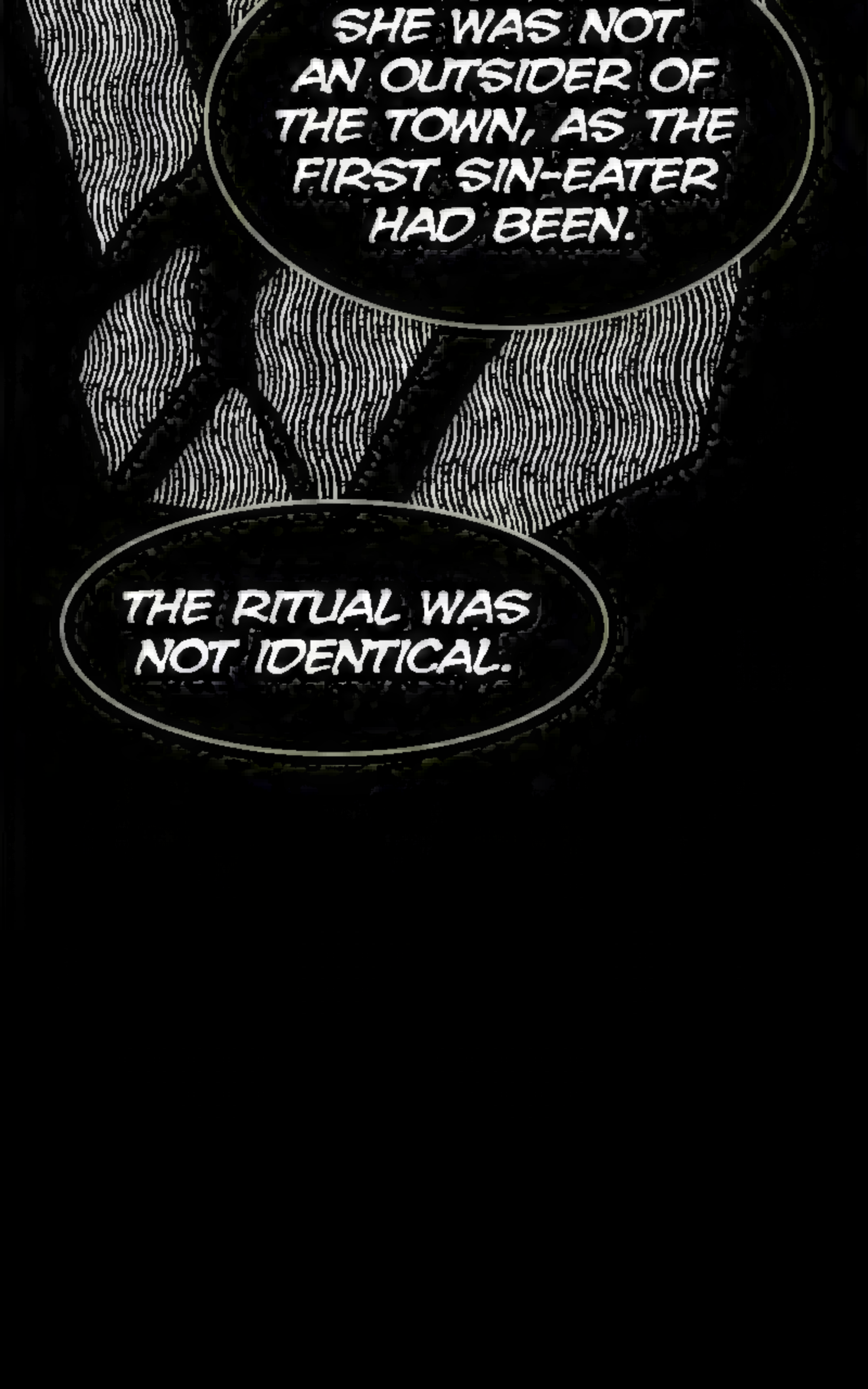
WE WERE STILL TRAPPED.

THE RITUAL
HAD FAILED.

SHE WAS USELESS TO US.




WE KNOW NOW WHAT WENT WRONG.


SHE WAS NOT AN OUTSIDER OF THE TOWN, AS THE FIRST SIN-EATER HAD BEEN.
THE RITUAL WAS NOT IDENTICAL.

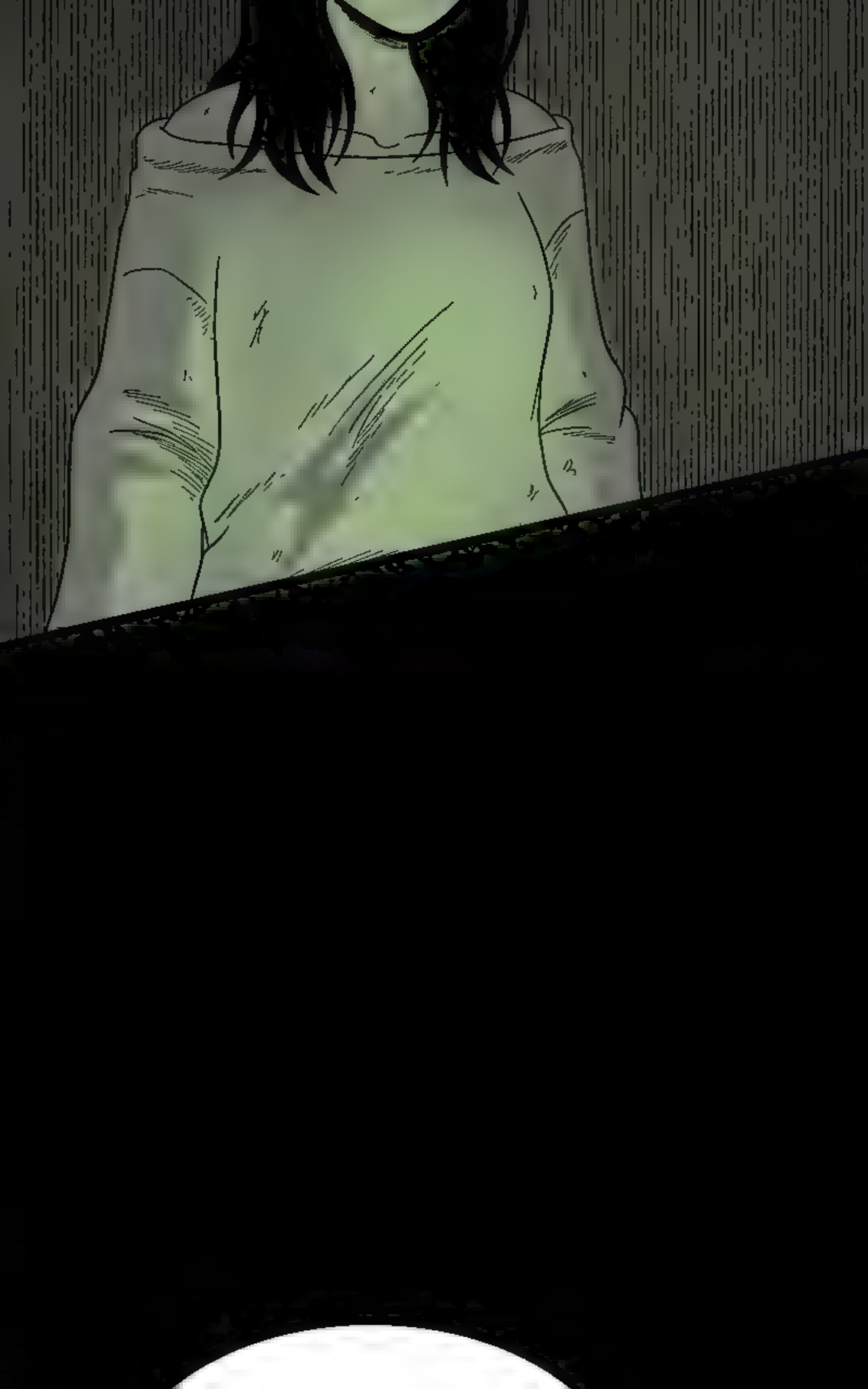
WE NEED AN OUTSIDER.
WE THOUGHT WE HAD
FOUND A SUITABLE ONE.

BUT HE WAS TOO DIFFICULT.
TOO FRIGHTENED TO PERSUADE.

WE LOOKED AGAIN,
AND FOUND YOU.

YOU WILL HELP US LEAVE THIS PLACE FOR GOOD.
THIS IS YOUR PENANCE.

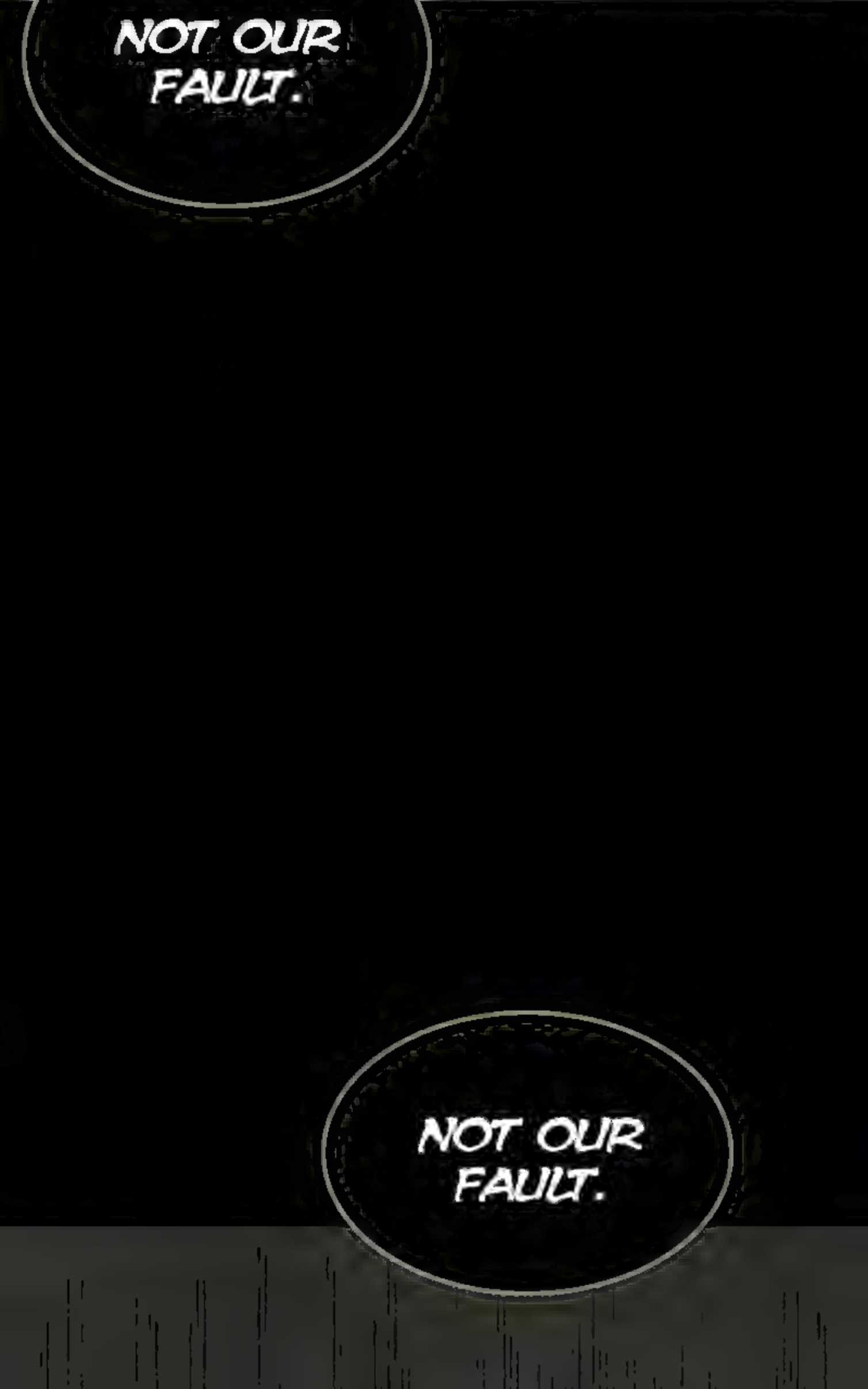
YOU WILL EAT OUR GUILT, AND WE WILL BE FREE.

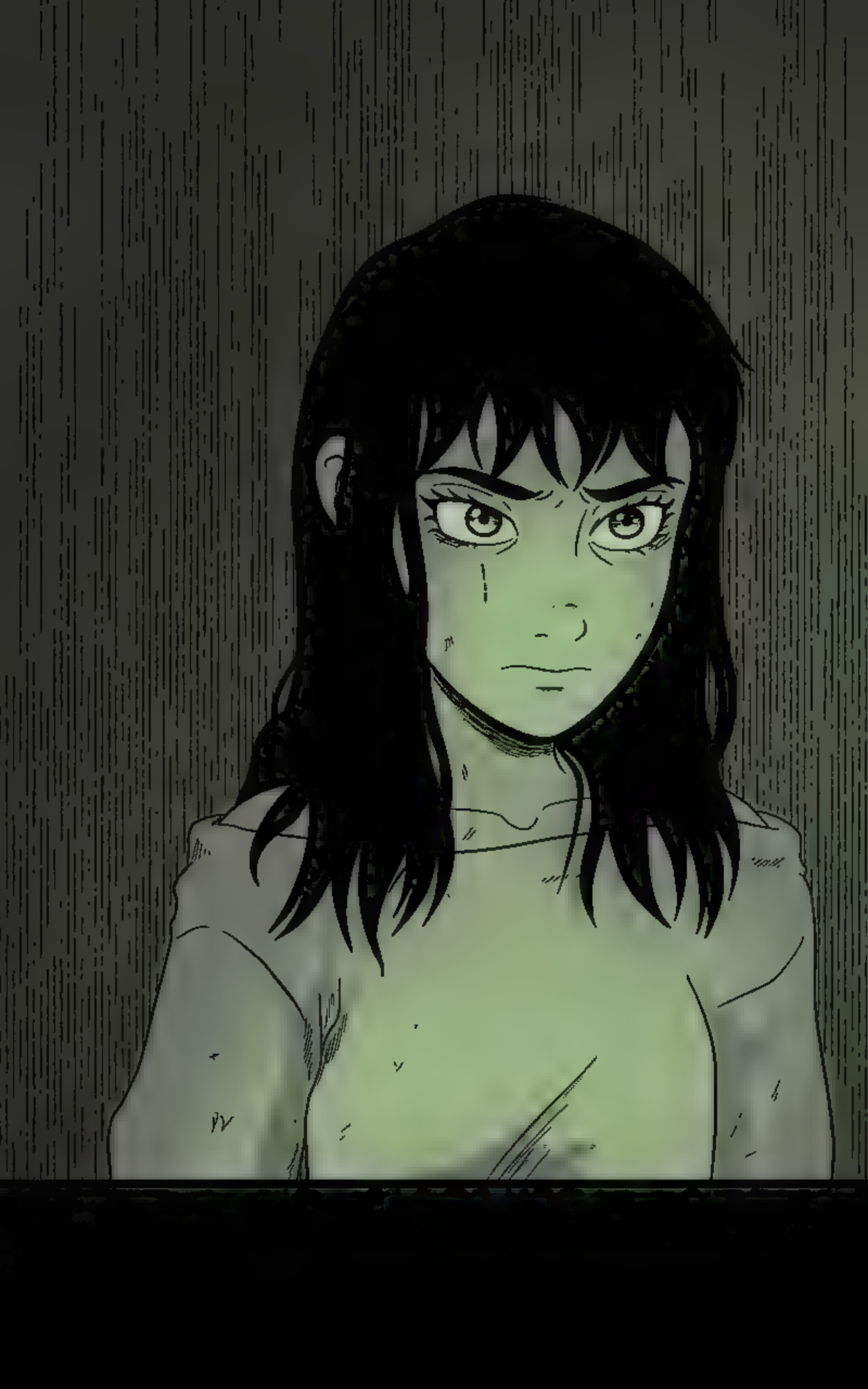


AND IF I AGREE? WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

WHAT IF EATING THIS... THING...KILLS ME?
WE HAVE

NO WAY OF KNOWING.

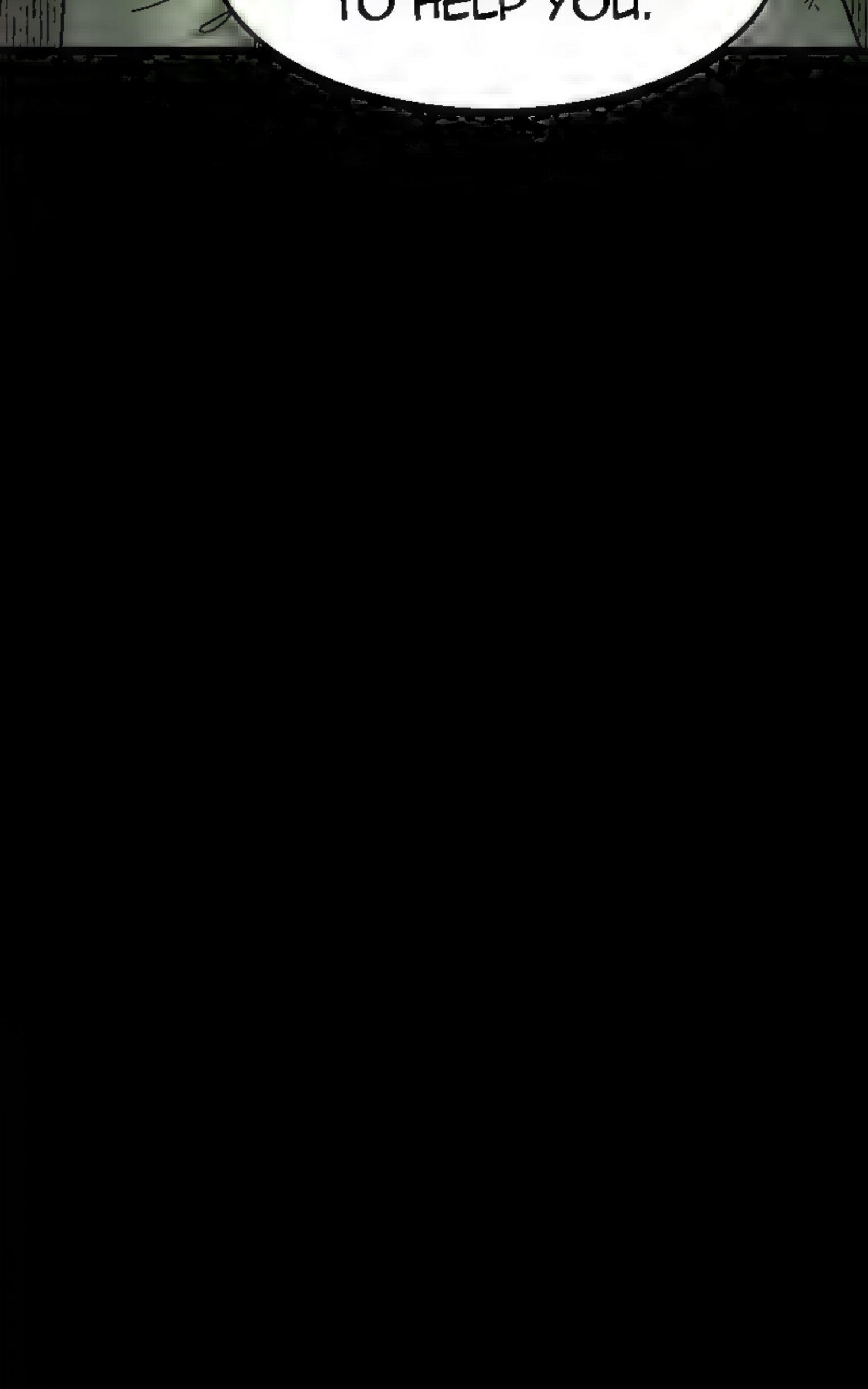

NOT OUR FAULT.
NOT OUR FAULT.



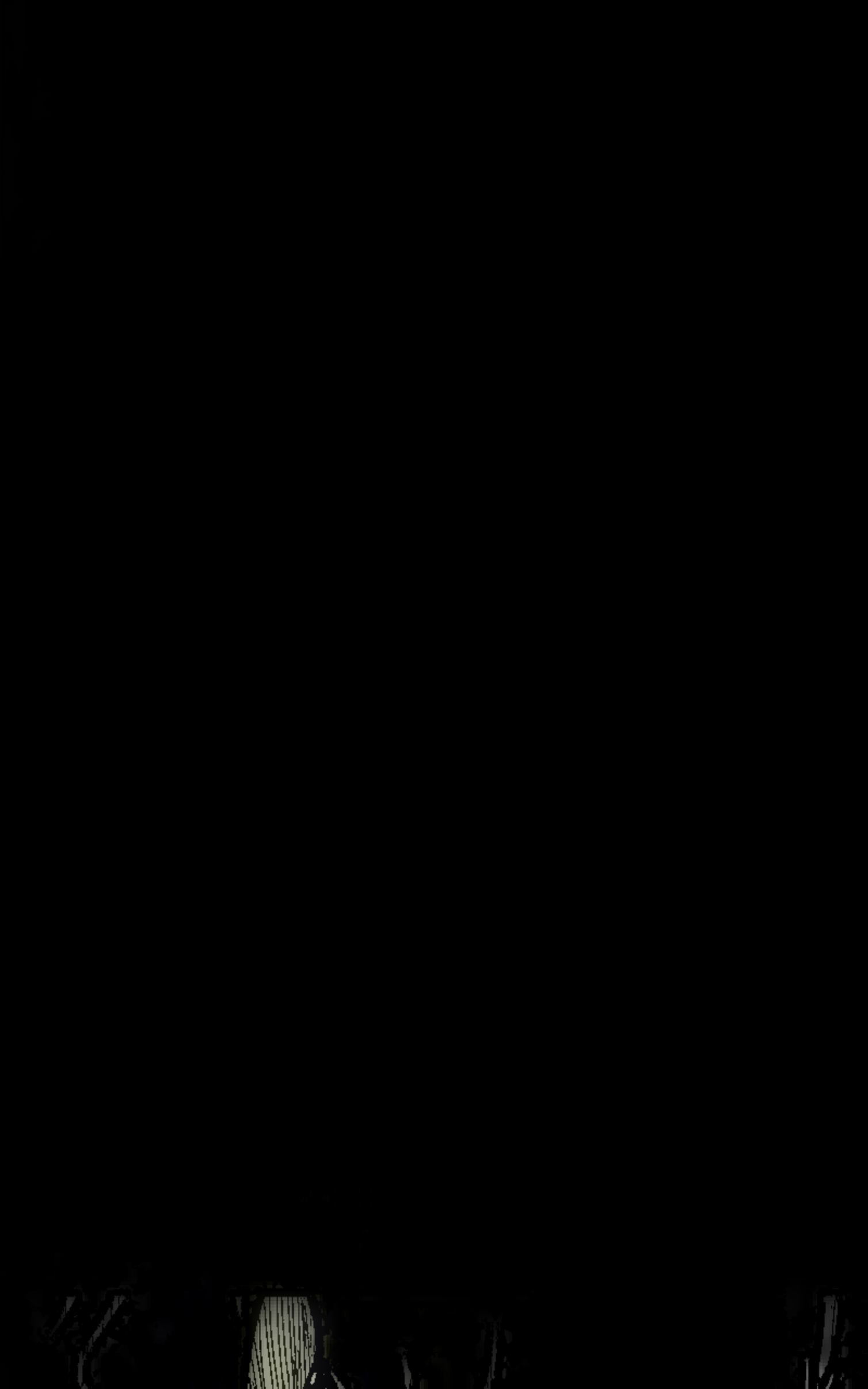
YOU...
PEOPLE...
HAVE TAKEN
EVERYTHING
FROM ME.

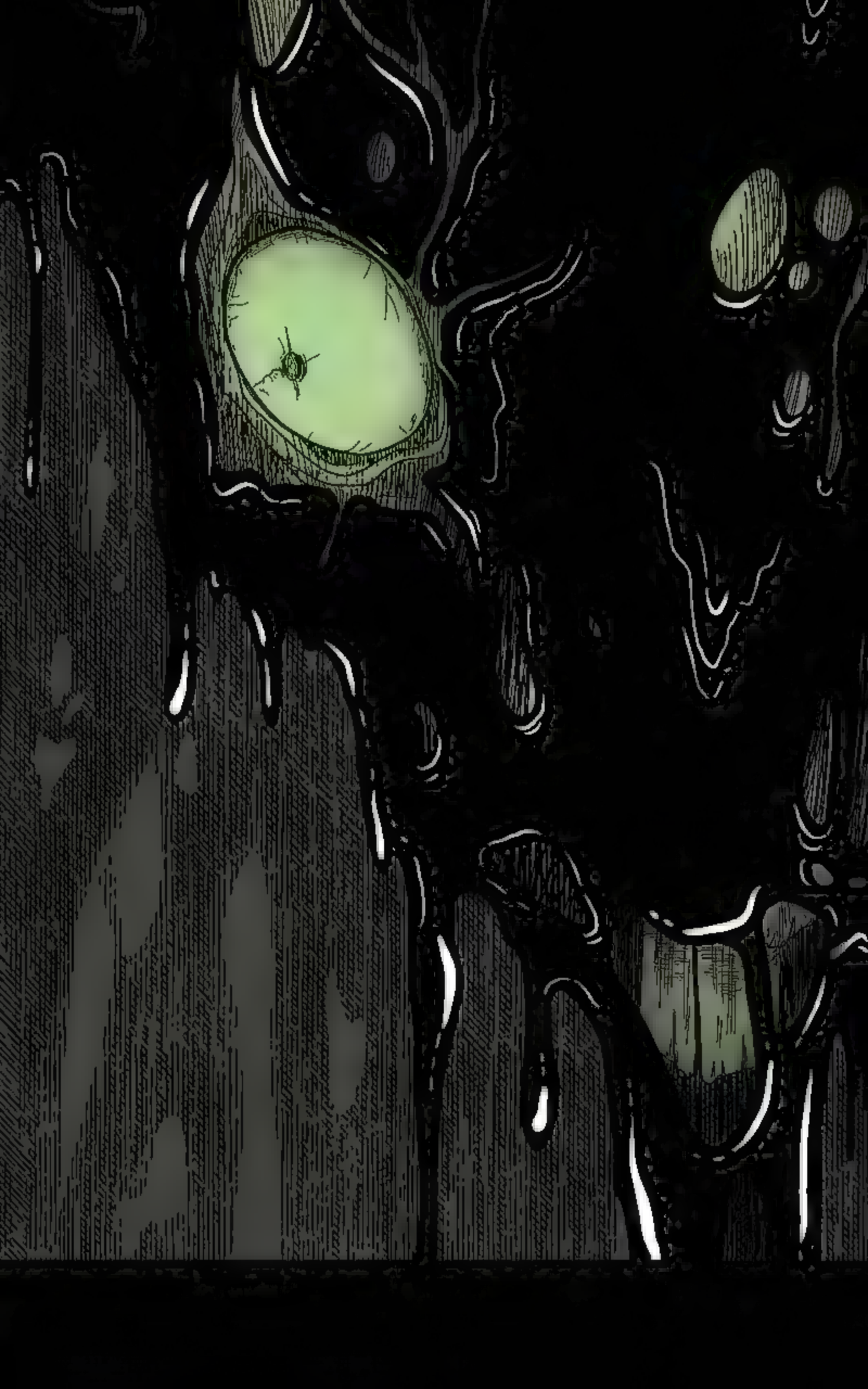
EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE I *CARED* ABOUT, ALL GONE.

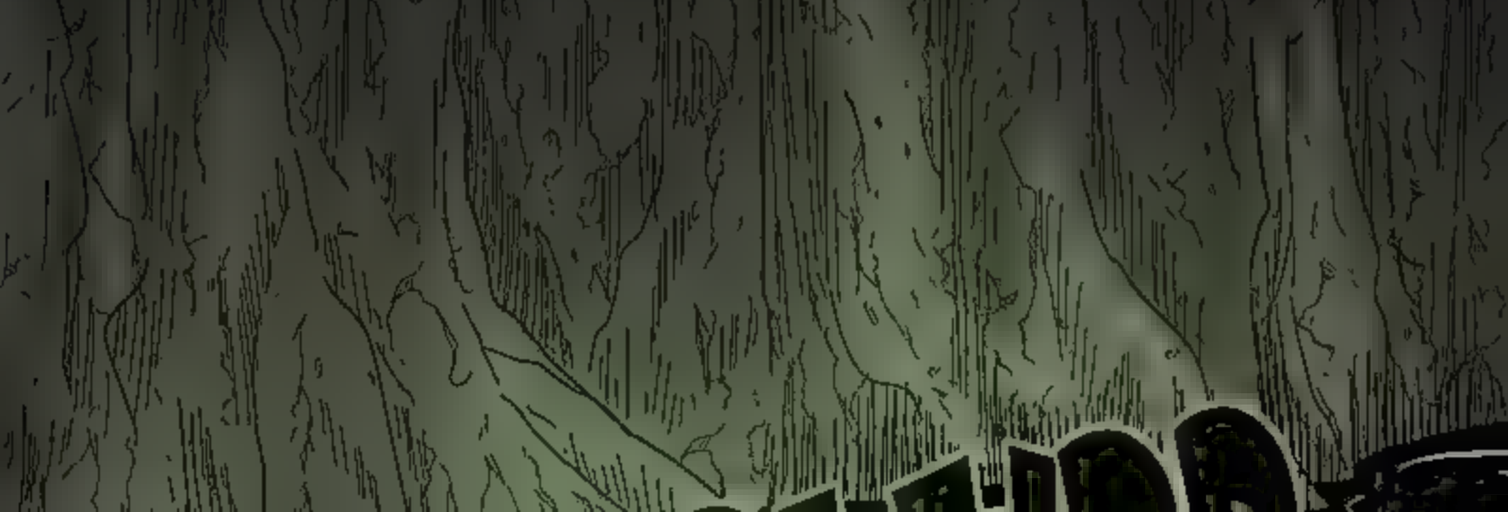
YOURE GOING TO KILL ME ANYWAY.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME


TO HELP YOU.

FORGET IT.







BLUBB
BLURRBB

GLASH

LSHH

JEREMY!
FELIX!!

GUYS! ARE YOU OKAY?!

W-WAKE UP!!

NOW...

ARE YOU READY TO HELP US?